(d) the exact result yielded by these suggestions so given by the Committee; and

(e) what is the time-frame for the said Committee to submit its final report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) A cabinet Committee on Economic Reforms has been constituted by the Government in November, 2001 and a meeting of the said Committee has been held in December, 2001. This Committee does not have any specific time frame and considers proposals on the related subject placed before it from time to time.

Additional posts of Chief Commissioners in IT Department

3700. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 86 additional posts of Chief Commissioners of Income Tax have been created;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 292 posts of Commissioners have also been created;

(c) if so, what would be the additional burden on exchaquer per year due to such creation;

(d) the compelling circumstances necessitating the creation of so large number of additional posts in the Income Tax Department at one time; and

(e) whether this expansion is in keeping with the downsizing policy of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) The Income Tax Department has been recently restructured. The objective behind the restructuring of the Income tax Department is to increase the productivity of the Department through induction of technology, re-designing business process through functional specialization and

rightsizing of manpower. As a part of restructuring, 80 additional posts of Chief Commissioners of Income Tax and 296 that of Commissioners of Income Tax have been created. There has also been reduction of 2716 posts.

MODVAT to DTA manufacturers in NE States

3701. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed MODVAT facilities to DTA manufacturers on goods produced in the North East which are having excise concessions;

(b) whether it is a fact that goods manufactured in the North East are eligible for exports and consequently for getting export benefits including excise duty refund and duty drawback at par with other States;

(c) if not, what are the reasons for discrimination against the North East; and

(d) whether Government would take corrective steps to make them at par with industries of other States to save the industries of North East from complete disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not apply in view of reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

VRS in Andhra Bank

3702. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in each cadre in Andhra Bank and State Bank of Hyderabad who opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and number of employees relieved in each Bank under the Scheme;